

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair

An aneurysm is an enlargement or bulging of an artery. All artery walls are made of three layers. There are outer, middle, and inner layers. The enlargement or bulging occurs at a weak area of the middle layer of an artery wall. An aneurysm occurs anywhere along the length of the aorta (the large blood vessel that carries blood away from the heart to all parts of the body). This aneurysm can be located in either the chest or the abdomen (stomach area). However, it occurs four times more frequently in the abdomen.

Aortic aneurysms most frequently occur in white men between 50 and 60 years of age. But women are also at risk for developing abdominal aortic aneurysm. The most common cause of an aortic aneurysm is partial clogging of the aorta. Other factors that can increase the chances of having an aortic aneurysm include high blood pressure, smoking, and a family history of aortic aneurysm.

The goal of medical management is to prevent rupture (bursting) of the aneurysm. The only effective treatment of an abdominal aortic aneurysm is surgery (abdominal aortic aneurysm repair). During this surgery, the area where the aneurysm is located is clamped off, cut out, and a patch or artificial piece of blood vessel is sewn where the aneurysm was.

Research studies indicate that better outcomes are achieved when the number of elective abdominal aortic aneurysm repair procedures performed per year at a hospital is in the range of 27 or more.

[See page 20 for references, numbers 6, 7, 13, 21, 26, 27, 28 and 32.]

Region	Subregion	Average Annual Volume
Hospital		
Central / Northeastern Region		
Columbia		
	Boone Hospital Center	44
	Columbia Regional Hospital	1
	University Hospitals and Clinics	16
Jefferson City		
	Capital Region Medical Center	4
	St. Mary's Health Center	16
Rest of Area		
	Bothwell Regional Health Center	1
	Hannibal Regional Hospital	2
	Lake Regional Health System	6
	Northeast Regional Medical Center	1
Kansas City / Western Region		
Clay / Platte Counties		
	Liberty Hospital	9
	North Kansas City Hospital	24
Eastern Jackson County		
	Independence Regional Health Center	9
	Lees Summit Hospital	2
	Medical Center of Independence	2
	St. Mary's Hospital of Blue Springs	1
Kansas City (Jackson County)		
	Baptist Medical Center	12
	Research Medical Center	29
	Saint Joseph Health Center	17
	Saint Luke's Hospital	61
	Truman Medical Center-Hospital Hill	1
Rest of Area		
	Heartland Regional Medical Center	25

Procedure-Specific Questions

- ◆ What will happen to me if I do not have my abdominal aortic aneurysm repaired?
- ◆ What is the likelihood that my aneurysm will rupture (burst) if I do not have surgery?
- ◆ If I am very athletic, will I have to reduce my activity level?

(See page 3 for other questions)

Region	Average
Subregion	Annual
Hospital	Volume
Southeastern Region	
Cape Girardeau	
Saint Francis Medical Center	22
Setheast Missouri Hospital	12
Poplar Bluff	
Three Rivers Healthcare	1
Rest of Area	
Missouri Delta Medical Center	2
Southwestern Region	
Joplin	
Freeman Health System	21
St. John's Regional Medical Center	50
Springfield	
Lester E. Cox Medical Center South	43
St. John's Regional Health Center	43
Rest of Area	
Skaggs Community Health Center	1

Region	Average
Subregion	Annual
Hospital	Volume
St Louis / Eastern Region	
Farmington	
Parkland Health Center	3
St. Charles County	
Barnes-Jewish St Peters Hospital	3
SSM St. Joseph Health Center	16
St. Louis City / County	
Barnes-Jewish Hospital	85
Christian Hospital Northeast-Northwest	20
Depaul Health Center	16
Des Peres Hospital	9
Forest Park Hospital	5
Missouri Baptist Medical Center	69
Saint Louis University Hospital	17
Southpointe Hospital	1
SSM St. Joseph Hospital of Kirkwood	10
SSM St. Mary's Health Center	15
St. Alexius Hospital	4
St. Anthony's Medical Center	27
St. John's Mercy Medical Center Creve Coeur	33
St. Luke's Hospital	17
Rest of Area	
Jefferson Memorial Hospital	6
St. John's Mercy Hospital Washington	1

